



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 27, 2016

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
82 Smith Street
Room 306 State House
Providence RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney:

I write in strong support of Governor Raimondo's revised Article 1 appropriation to the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

The Governor's revised appropriation increases the BHDDH's general revenue support \$9.2 million. Due to federal program matches, this increase will result in \$18.7 million in new resources for services to those with developmental disabilities.

The proposed increase to General Revenues would be invested in the following manner:

- \$2.0 million in additional investment in employment and day services
- \$2.2 million in professional supports provided in day centers to individuals with developmental disabilities
- \$5.0 million to support the transition of individuals from group homes to shared living arrangements.

As Rhode Island emerges from the Great Recession, we must remain cognizant of our obligation to invest in programs that provide care to the underserved. In recent years, programmatic support to those with developmental disabilities has stagnated. These additional investments partially restore savings the Governor assumed from transitioning individuals out of 24-hour group homes to other options, increase support for direct care workers, and make investments pursuant to the court ordered consent decree.

I urge you to include this badly needed funding in the House Finance Committee's proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

William W. O'Brien
State Representative – District 54